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interest in Spanish-American commercial relations, and of reviving the naval power of Spain. The author, who has written a work on *Arquitectura Naval Española*, investigates the causes of the ruin of Spain's sea-borne trade, and calls upon his countrymen to follow a policy opposite to that which led to the destruction of their overseas commerce. His book is based on good authorities, and he has used some manuscript material. He is more interested in generalities than in details.

FRANCES G. DAVENPORT.

The West Florida controversy, 1798-1813: A Study in American Diplomacy. By ISAAC JOSLIN COX, Associate Professor of History, University of Cincinnati. [The Albert Shaw Lectures on Diplomatic History, 1912.] (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1918. Pp. XII, 699. \$3.50.)

It will be unnecessary for investigators to re-examine the West Florida controversy for many a year to come, for Professor Cox has seen practically all the known material and has presented his findings with fullness of detail, with painstaking care, and with historical insight. The author is perhaps better fitted in temperament and training to unravel the complicated story than any other scholar in the United States. He is possessed of infinite patience, knows the ins and outs of the archives, is endowed with unusual ability in finding pertinent material, and is calmly judicial in his discussion of mooted and difficult questions. When he gets on the trail of a filibuster, the illusive plotter must eventually surrender, no matter how intricate the course nor how tiresome the pursuit.

The principal materials were drawn from the Archivo General at Seville, the Archivo Histórico Nacional at Madrid, the State Department of Archives and History at Jackson, Mississippi, the archives of the State and War departments at Washington, the Archives des Affaires Étrangères at Paris, and the British Public Record Office. The archive guides prepared under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution greatly facilitated the work. It appears to the reviewer that the British archives were not drawn upon for their full store of information, and as a result the reader gets but passing glimpses of British policy regarding West Florida. Otherwise there can be no question of the thoroughness of the search for material.

The "historical apparatus" is on the whole satisfying. There are four maps; the frontispiece is a reproduction of William Darby's map

of Louisiana and part of the Mississippi Territory; another map illustrates the gradual acquisition of West Florida; others show the Baton Rouge and Mobile districts. Professor Cox did not see fit to include a bibliography; to the reviewer this is an unfortunate omission, but the footnotes are so copious that there is some justification for the author's decision. The index is excellent. The proof reading was done with care, only one serious slip being found, an unfortunate omission of a line and insertion of another appearing in the fourth line on p. 169. Slight errors also occur on pp. 363 and 365.

The author has long held the view that the pioneer was the deciding factor in American diplomacy. In the examination of the West Florida controversy he has found no reason to change his view point, as is shown by his closing words. "The pioneers who took part in it had pressed into an area that physiographically belonged to the United States and they undertook to make this relation a political one also. They occupied the territory by peaceful means, dispossessing few that had any legitimate claim for redress. They outstripped the diplomat and forced his hand, and in the final settlement their deeds, though obscured under a cloud of words, formed the determining factor. If the preceding chapters have made this clear, the writer has accomplished his purpose." Most of the thoughtful readers of this book, and none but the thoughtful will read it, will no doubt agree that Professor Cox is correct in his conclusion.

The perusal of the volume leaves the impression that the author is far more interested in the doings of the pioneers than in the intrigues of the diplomats. The chapters dealing with the local situation are more interestingly written and more thoroughly grounded than are those which deal with the policies of the French, Spanish, British, and United States governments. In fact the great contribution of the book lies in the story of the pioneers.

The opening chapter which presents the diplomatic background is not entirely satisfying, for it fails to clear up many questions connected with the Treaty of 1795. The third chapter which deals mainly with the Louisiana Purchase, and the fourth which gives an account of Monroe's mission to Spain add little to our previous knowledge. That portion of the sixth chapter which deals with the Burr Conspiracy is unconvincing, and the final chapter which covers the subject after 1815 is distinctly disappointing.

In style the book is heavy, for Professor Cox is always willing to sacrifice style for accuracy. Seldom does he allow his pen to flow

freely. Those who admire the severe, the academic, the painstaking, the continual striving for exactness, will find enjoyment in the book. The reviewer would prefer to read the story of the capture of a fort (p. 399) without interrupting the movement of events by a discussion of authorities. The author is prone to advance reasons for human action when the documents at hand fail to supply the information; for examples see pages 295, 297, 302, 472, 478, 482, 483; "scientific guessing" is at best a dangerous pastime. Much of the material might have been compressed without historic loss, and more thought given to arrangement in chapters V. and VIII.

The faults which the reviewer has pointed out are minor matters as compared with the solid merits of the book. Serious students of history will thank Professor Cox for his careful work, and after all, to the writer of history it is the approval of those who know which gives him his reward for the patient toil in dusty archives and in musty tomes.

THOMAS MAITLAND MARSHALL.

Florida the land of enchantment. By NEVIN O. WINTER. (Boston: The Page Company, 1918. Pp. xii, 380. Map; illustrations; index. \$3.50.)

The contents of this volume are described on the title-page to be "an account of its [Florida's] romantic history from the days of Ponce de Leon and the other early explorers and settlers, and the story of its native Indians; a survey of its climate, lakes and rivers and a description of its scenic wonders and abundant animal and bird life; and a comprehensive review of the Florida of to-day, as a state important for its industries, agriculture and educational advantages as well as the unsurpassed and justly celebrated winter resort of America, with unparalleled attractions for health and pleasure seekers, nature lovers, motorists and sportsmen." It forms a volume of the "See America First" Series, and like the other volumes of that series has an attractive, though perhaps too ornate appearance, is well printed and bound, and profusely illustrated. In common with Mr. Winter's other books, this is a readable, but not in any sense a deep, book. The style is journalistic and the author permits himself in consequence to assume a free-and-easy attitude toward his public that could not be tolerated in a really serious book. There are many items of interest and many good descriptions, and the casual reader will feel repaid for reading the volume. Sportsmen, who desire to know something of the game and